

REMARKS

Applicants amend claims 1 and 7 and cancel claims 6 and 8. Accordingly, claims 1 and 7 are all the claims pending in the application.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of non statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7,088,354, Matsumoto. Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “when said detection device detects that said connector is disconnected.” On the contrary, U.S. Patent No. 7,088,354 discloses detecting an abnormality in a power-supply voltage of said control-signal generation unit. Applicants respectfully submit that since detecting an abnormality in a power-supply voltage of a control signal generation unit clearly does not disclose detecting if a connector is disconnected, the unique features of claim 1 are not obvious.

In view of the above Applicants respectfully submit that the double patenting rejection of claim 1 is improper and request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention.

In view of the claim amendments to claim 1 and 7, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 1 and 7.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,563,624; hereinafter “Imamura”). Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein when said detection device detects that said connector is disconnected, the first switch (S21) is set on ON state and the second switch (S22) is set to OFF state.” Applicants respectfully submit that Imamura does not disclose this unique feature of claim 1.

Imamura is directed to a flat display device having a configuration such that a display body module and display control unit for controlling the display are separately disposed, as well as to a display body driving device (column 1, lines 10-16). Imamura discloses a scan electrode driving circuit in FIG. 3. However, Imamura does not disclose when said detection device detects that said connector is disconnected, the first switch (S21) is set on ON state and the second switch (S22) is set to OFF state.

Specifically, in the portion of the reference relied on by the Examiner, Imamura only discloses a selection switch 46h for alternatively convey-supplying scan electrode driving voltages V5, V1, VO, V4 to the scan electrodes in response to respective selection control signals C1, C2, C3, C4 (col. 7, lines 16-19). However, there is no disclosure of the **first switch being set on ON state and second switch being set to OFF state when a detection device detects that a connector is disconnected**. That is, Imamura does not disclose that elements f1-f4 (the alleged first switch) are set to ON and elements f1-f4 (the alleged second switches) are set to OFF based on **when a detection device detects that a connector is disconnected**

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

Claim 7

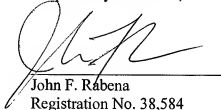
Claim 7 recites subject matter analogous to claim 1, and therefore is allowable for at least the same reasons claim 1 is allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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